MARVEL

016

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STAR WARS™ DARTH VADER

BURNING SEAS

Part IV

The water world of Mon Cala has rebelled against the Galactic Empire!

The Mon Calamari king Lee-Char has managed to hold off Imperial forces through desperate strategies, luck and the help of his secret Jedi advisor Ferren Barr. But Moff Tarkin has brought increased firepower to bear on the planet, and the Empire has another weapon as well...the evil Sith Lord Darth Vader.

Vader and his Inquisitors are hunting Master Barr in an effort to extinguish the Jedi Order once and for all. Through the power of the dark side of the Force, they have located the hidden refuge where the Jedi waits with his small group of loyal acolytes....

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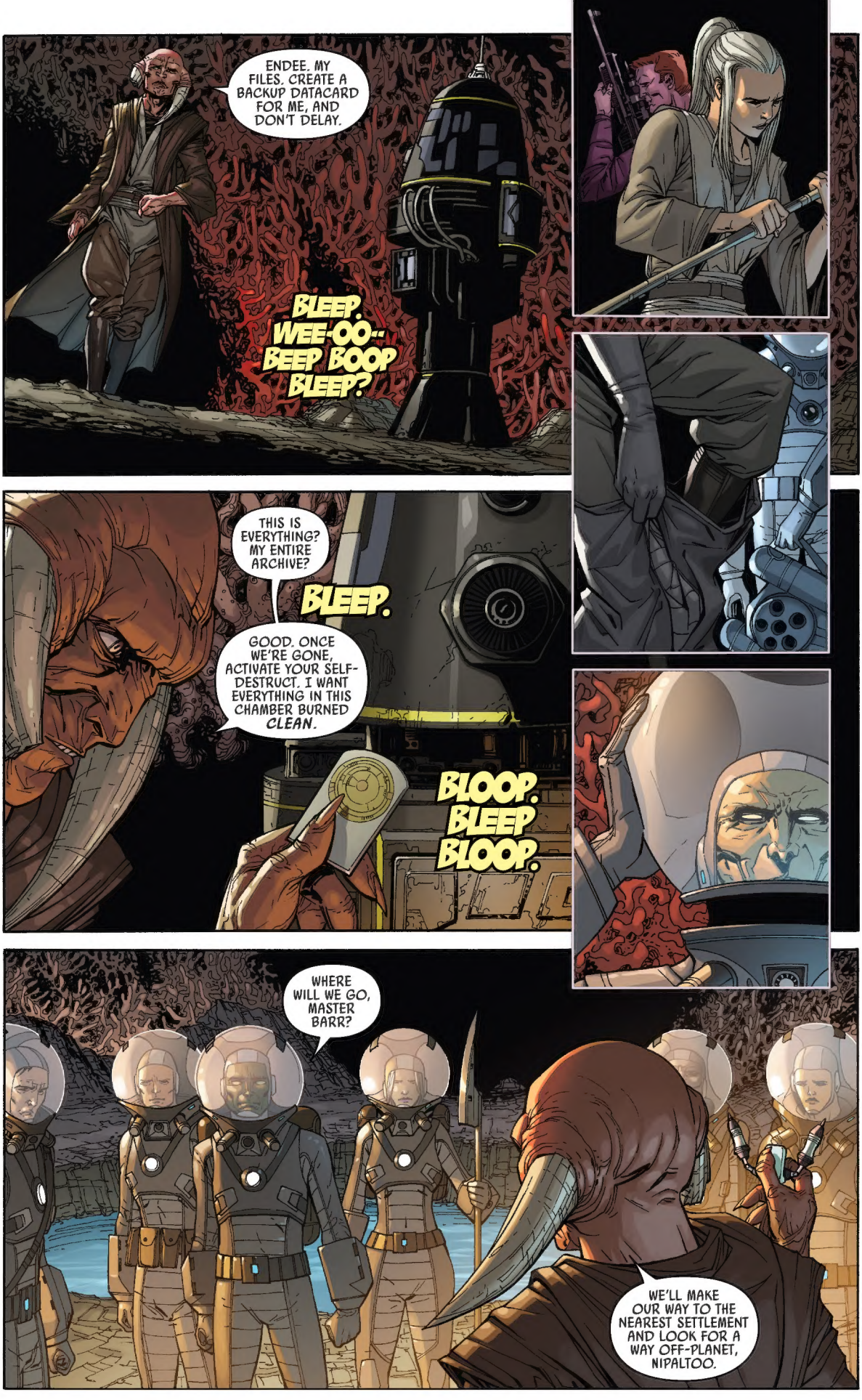
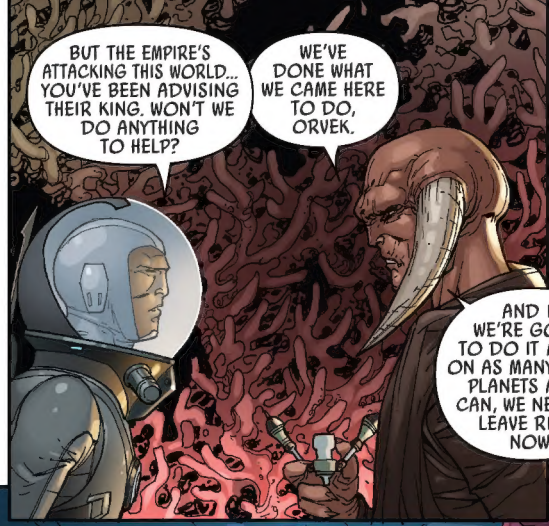
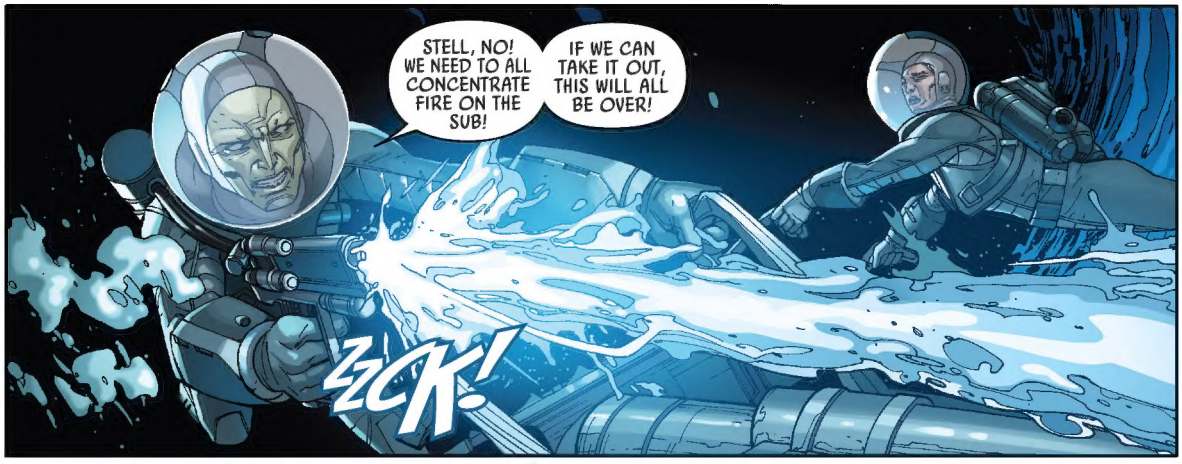
Somewhere On Mon Cala. Now.
EVACUATION PROTOCOL! NOW!
EVACUATION? WHAT IS IT, MASTER BARR?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
IT'S PALPATINE'S BAND OF JEDI HUNTERS, VERLA.
THE INQUISITORS, WITH DARTH VADER AT THEIR HEAD.
THEY KNOW WHERE WE ARE.


ENDEE. MY FILES. CREATE A BACKUP DATACARD FOR ME, AND DON'T DELAY.
BLEEP. WEE-OO-- BEEP BOOP BLEEP?
THIS IS EVERYTHING? MY ENTIRE ARCHIVE?
BLEEP.
GOOD. ONCE WE'RE GONE, ACTIVATE YOUR SELF-DESTRUCT. I WANT EVERYTHING IN THIS CHAMBER BURNED CLEAN.
BLOOP. BLEEP BLOOP.
WHERE WILL WE GO, MASTER BARR?
WE'LL MAKE OUR WAY TO THE NEAREST SETTLEMENT AND LOOK FOR A WAY OFF-PLANET, NIPALTOO.

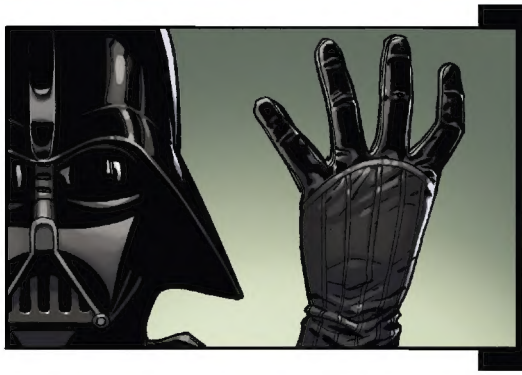

BUT THE EMPIRE'S ATTACKING THIS WORLD... YOU'VE BEEN ADVISING THEIR KING. WON'T WE DO ANYTHING TO HELP?
WE'VE DONE WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO, ORVEK.
AND IF WE'RE GOING TO DO IT AGAIN, ON AS MANY OTHER PLANETS AS WE CAN, WE NEED TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW.

IF IT IS NOT ALREADY TOO LATE.

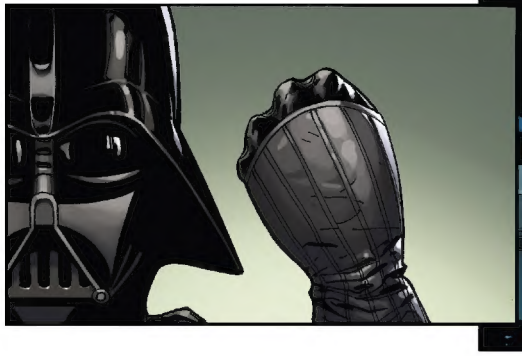
OH, NO.
SCATTER!


STELL, NO! WE NEED TO ALL CONCENTRATE FIRE ON THE SUB!
IF WE CAN TAKE IT OUT, THIS WILL ALL BE OVER!
ZZCK!

KZZSSK!



NO... DON'T...
KRCK!

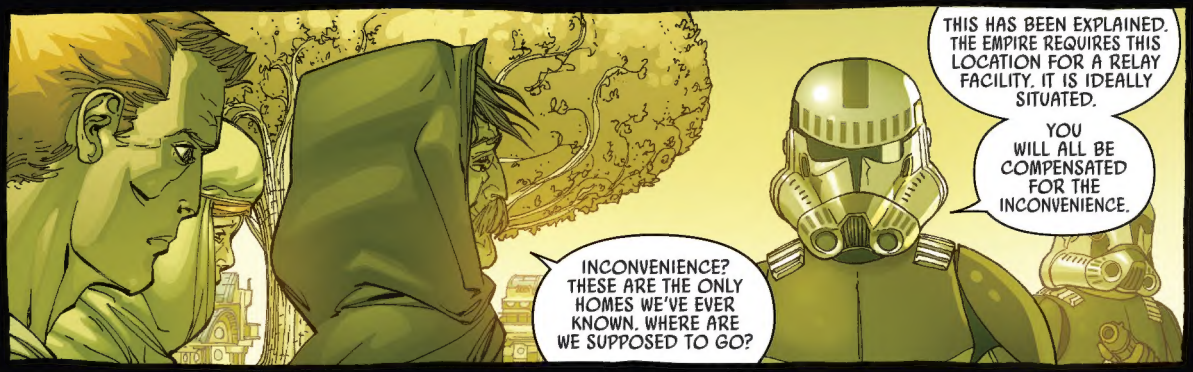


KRRCK!

WHERE ARE THEY TAKING PALABEE, MOTHER?
OH, NIPALTOO... THEY ARE TAKING YOUR SISTER VERY FAR AWAY. TO A NEW, BETTER LIFE.
SHE'S GOING TO BE A JEDI.
OUR LOYAL CLONE TROOPERS CONTAINED THE INSURRECTION WITHIN THE JEDI TEMPLE AND QUELLED UPRISINGS ON A THOUSAND WORLDS.
THE REMAINING JEDI WILL BE HUNTED DOWN AND DEFEATED!
NO... PALABEE... IT'S NOT TRUE. IT CAN'T BE.
YOU WILL FIND JUSTICE FOR YOUR SISTER'S MURDER, NIPALTOO. I SWEAR IT ON THE FORCE.
BUT HOW, MASTER BARR?
FOLLOW ME.

MASTER BARR! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM IN THE WATER, DAREN.
BEL CITY ISN'T FAR. IF WE CAN GET THERE, WE HAVE A CHANCE.
ORVEK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THEY'RE RIGHT ON TOP OF US, VERLA! WE HAVE TO SLOW THEM DOWN.
I'M GONNA DO THAT. GIVE YOU ALL A CHANCE TO GET SET. MAYBE EVEN HIDE.
BESIDES, ANY DAY I GET TO FIGHT IMPERIALS IS A GOOD D--
THOOM!

KRRNCH
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?


THIS HAS BEEN EXPLAINED. THE EMPIRE REQUIRES THIS LOCATION FOR A RELAY FACILITY. IT IS IDEALLY SITUATED.
YOU WILL ALL BE COMPENSATED FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.
INCONVENIENCE? THESE ARE THE ONLY HOMES WE'VE EVER KNOWN. WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GO?

SOMEWHERE ELSE.

WE WILL BRING DOWN THE EMPIRE TOGETHER, ORVEK. THE FORCE HAS SHOWN ME THE PATH.
ALL YOU NEED TO DO...

...IS FOLLOW YOU.

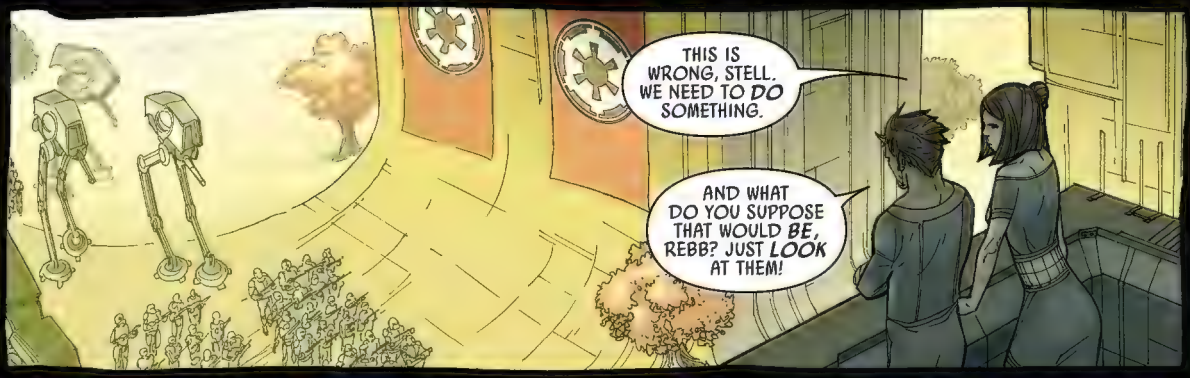
THERE!

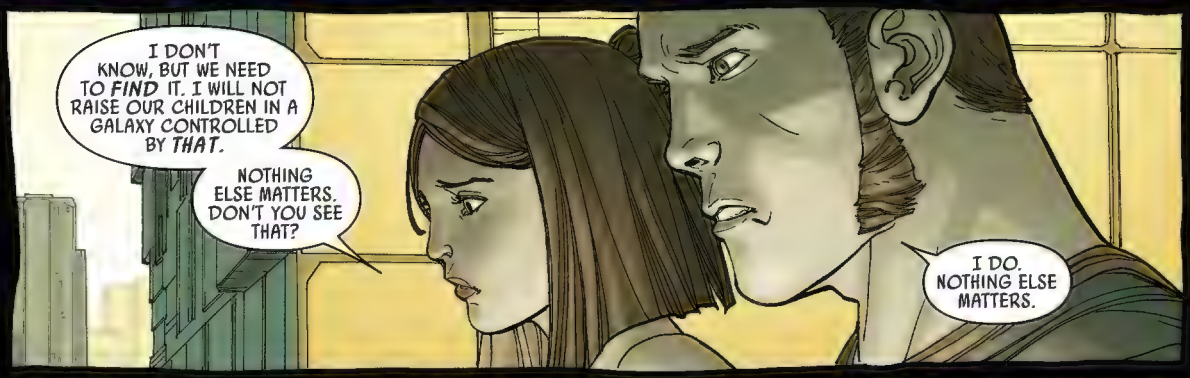
SPLSH!

GO! I CAN AMBUSH THEM HERE--TAKE SOME OF THEM DOWN.
IF YOU'RE STAYING, REBB, SO AM I.

YOUR BRAVERY WILL BE REMEMBERED. MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU BOTH.

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS, EH, STELL?
NOTHING.


THIS IS WRONG, STELL. WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING.
AND WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT WOULD BE, REBB? JUST LOOK AT THEM!

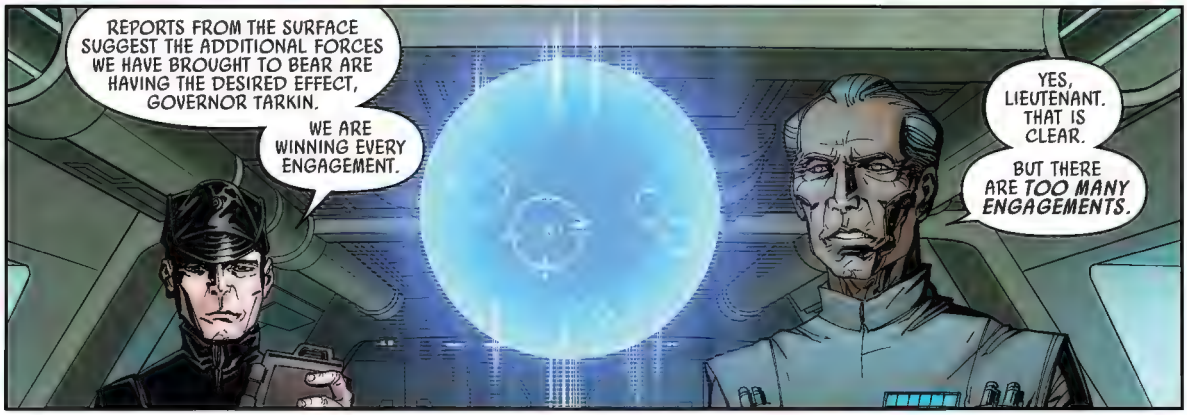

I DON'T KNOW, BUT WE NEED TO FIND IT. I WILL NOT RAISE OUR CHILDREN IN A GALAXY CONTROLLED BY THAT.
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS. DON'T YOU SEE THAT?
I DO. NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.

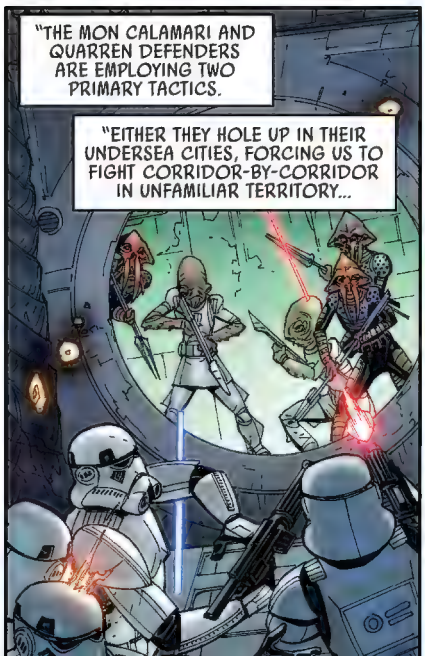
NOTHING BUT YOU.

I WILL GIVE YOU PURPOSE. BOTH OF YOU. YOU WILL SEE.
YES, MASTER JEDI. WE KNOW.

WE WILL FOLLOW YOU.

Imperial Star Destroyer *Sovereign.*





"...THERE IS ADMIRAL RADDUS.

"THE KING TASKED HIM WITH DEFENSE OF THE SOUTHERN POLAR REGIONS, AND HE HAS DEVISED A STRATEGY THAT IS...

"...WELL, I WILL GIVE HIM HIS DUE. IT IS BRILLIANT.

"HE HAS TAKEN THE VESSELS OF THEIR MERCHANT FLEET FROM THE MON CALAMARI SHIPYARDS NEAR THE POLE AND LINKED THEM TOGETHER.

"THEY ARE NOT MILITARY SHIPS, BUT THEIR SHIELDING IS DESIGNED FOR DEEP-SPACE AND HYPERSPACE TRAVEL, NOT TO MENTION REPELLING PIRATE ATTACKS.

"HE'S KEEPING HIS OWN FORCES INSIDE THEIR PROTECTIVE BUBBLE, AND OUR SEA-BASED TEAMS AND TACTICS CAN'T MAKE A DENT.

"HE'S BUILT HIMSELF A FORTRESS."

WE'VE REPELLED THE LATEST ATTACK, ADMIRAL RADDUS. SHIELDS STILL HOLDING STRONG.

OF COURSE THEY ARE.

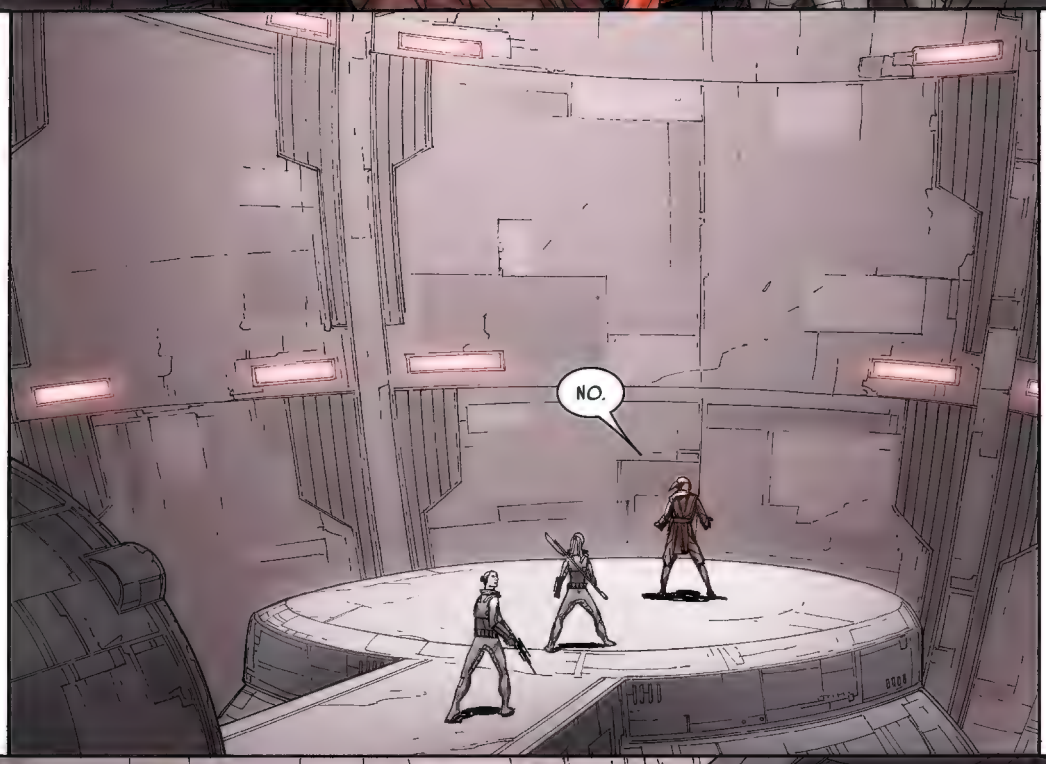
WHEN DO YOU THINK THE IMPERIALS WILL GET TIRED OF LOSING AND JUST WITHDRAW?

YOU KNOW, COMMANDER...

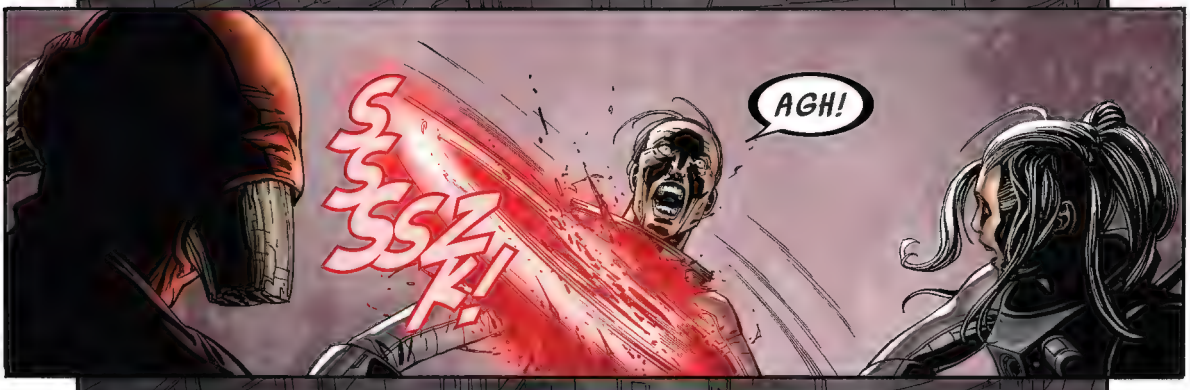
...I ALMOST HOPE THEY DON'T.

THE JEDI AND HIS DISCIPLES ARE NOT FAR. I SENSE THEIR PRESENCE.
LORD VADER.
GOVERNOR TARKIN. I AM OCCUPIED.
I AM AWARE. I REQUEST THAT YOU ALLOW THE REST OF YOUR TEAM TO LOCATE AND DISPATCH THE JEDI.
I HAVE ANOTHER TASK FOR YOU. SECURE KING LEE-CHAR.
I AM NOT SUBJECT TO YOUR AUTHORITY.
NO. HENCE THE REQUEST, AS OPPOSED TO AN ORDER.
BUT THE MON CALAMARI AND QUARREN FORCES ARE DIGGING IN FOR A PROTRACTED CONFLICT, AND OUR EMPEROR MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WANTED A SWIFT VICTORY HERE.
IF I HAVE THE KING, I CAN END THIS. I SUSPECT YOU CAN ACQUIRE HIM FASTER THAN ANYONE ELSE. WILL YOU ASSIST ME?
I WOULD CONSIDER IT... A PERSONAL FAVOR.
I WOULD BE IN YOUR DEBT.
INQUISITORS. I HAVE ANOTHER TASK. CONTINUE ON. DESTROY THE JEDI.
SEE THAT YOU DO.
DON'T WORRY, VADER. WE'LL GET HIM.

JUST KEEP MOVING, BOTH OF YOU. IF WE CAN FIND A DEFENSIBLE POSITION, I CAN ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE KING AND ASK HIM TO SEND A RESCUE PARTY.
BUT HOW LONG WILL THAT TAKE, MASTER BARR?
DAREN, IT IS MY VERY SINCERE HOPE THAT WE LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT.


NO.

THERE'S NO WAY OUT! BACK INTO THE TUNNEL! MAYBE WE CAN--


SSSZZK!
AGH!

PREPARE TO DIE, REPUBLIC SCUM.
NO...I'M NOT...PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!

SSK!
SSK!

YOU ALL RIGHT? CLOSE ONE THERE. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
UH...YEAH. YEAH. I'M FINE. I'M DAREN.
I'M ANAKIN. FIND SOMEWHERE TO HIDE.

IT'S NOT SAFE OUT HERE.

A JEDI SAVED MY LIFE ONCE. IF I CAN HELP, IN ANY WAY, I'D LIKE TO TRY.
OH, YOU WILL, MY FRIEND.
I CAN SEE IT.

WHAT WAS THAT THE JEDI SAID, JUST BEFORE WE SLICED HIS FRIEND IN HALF?
I CAN TELL YOU, SIXTH BROTHER. MY HEARING IS EXCEPTIONAL.
HE SAID THERE'S NO WAY OUT.
I'M READY, MASTER. WE CAN TAKE SOME OF THEM WITH US.
NO, VERLA.
I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
TNK
PROSSET DIBS, BIL VALEN AND MASANA TIDE.
JEDI, ONE AND ALL.
SO WHAT? WE KNOW YOU TOO. YOU WERE A PADAWAN. STILL ARE, I GUESS. NO JEDI COUNCIL LEFT TO RAISE YOU UP.
FERREN BARR. THAT'S YOU. LITTLE BABY FERREN BARR.
THOSE NAMES YOU SAID? THOSE NAMES ARE DEAD.
I'M NINTH SISTER. THIS IS SIXTH BROTHER, AND THE ONE WITH NO EYES, TENTH BROTHER. THAT'S ALL.
OH?
THE PAST DOES NOT DIE.

I STUDY THE PAST, YOU SEE.
FOR INSTANCE...
IT'S ALL I'VE DONE SINCE I WENT INTO HIDING AFTER THE PURGE. I TRACKED DOWN EVERY BIT OF INFORMATION ABOUT HOW PALPATINE TRICKED THE GALAXY.
...THE ROLE OF THE CLONES.
NNF!
AS I THOUGHT. YOUNG. FROM THE VERY LAST PRODUCTION LINE.
WHICH MEANS THEY WERE BROUGHT ONLINE AFTER THE PURGE, AS AN EXPENDABLE DEATH SQUAD FOR THE INQUISITORIUS.
YEAH, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT. YOU'RE STILL GOING TO DIE. NONE OF THAT MATTERS.
OH, BUT I SAY IT DOES. THE PAST MATTERS. HISTORY MATTERS. TRUTH MATTERS.
ONCE A JEDI, ALWAYS A JEDI.

EXECUTE ORDER 66.

DARTH VADER
NEXT ISSUE: